

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1           1.     A method for mediating access to production devices, comprising:  
2                 acquiring an access request for a production device;  
3                 retrieving an interface for the production device, the interface having user  
4     accessible controls for selecting production options for a document;  
5                 presenting the interface to a client; and  
6                 returning to the production device production options selected through  
7     the interface.
  
- 1           2.     The method of Claim 1, wherein the act of acquiring comprises  
2     intercepting an access request directed to the production device.
  
- 1           3.     The method of Claim 1, wherein the act of acquiring comprises  
2     redirecting the access request.
  
- 1           4.     The method of Claim 1, wherein the acts of acquiring and  
2     retrieving are performed on a network device other than the selected production  
3     device.
  
- 1           5.     The method of Claim 1, further comprising, before the act of  
2     returning, placing production data in a queue, the production data representing  
3     selected production options and access instructions for the document, and  
4     wherein the act of returning comprises returning the production data from the  
5     queue.
  
- 1           6.     The method of Claim 5, further comprising providing an interface  
2     having user accessible controls for managing production data in the queue.
  
- 1           7.     The method of Claim 1, further comprising providing an interface  
2     having controls for displaying the status of the production device.

1           8.     The method of Claim 1, further comprising obtaining and verifying  
2     credentials and wherein the act of presenting comprises presenting the interface  
3     only upon verification of the credentials.

1           9.     The method of Claim 8, wherein the client is a web browser and  
2     the act of obtaining comprises obtaining credentials using a cookie provided by  
3     the web browser.

1           10.    The method of Claim 1 wherein the act of retrieving comprises  
2     retrieving the interface in the form of a web page and the act of presenting  
3     comprises presenting the web page to a web browser.

1           11.    A method for mediating access to production devices, comprising:  
2     acquiring a client's access request for a production device;  
3     obtaining credentials from the client;  
4     upon verification of the credentials, retrieving an interface from the  
5     production device, the interface having user accessible controls for selecting  
6     production options for a document;  
7     presenting the interface to the client;  
8     placing production data in a queue, the production data representing  
9     selected production options and access instructions for the document;  
10    providing an interface having user accessible controls for managing the  
11    production data in the queue; and  
12    returning production data from the queue to the production device.

1           12.    A computer program product for mediating access to production  
2     devices, the product comprising a computer useable medium having computer  
3     readable instructions thereon for:  
4     acquiring an access request for a production device;  
5     retrieving an interface from the production device, the interface having  
6     user accessible controls for selecting production options for a document;  
7     presenting the interface to a client; and

8            returning to the production device production options selected through  
9            the interface.

1            13.    The product of Claim 12, wherein the instructions for acquiring  
2            include instructions for intercepting an access request directed to the production  
3            device.

1            14.    The product of Claim 12, wherein instructions for acquiring include  
2            instructions for redirecting the access request.

1            15.    The product of Claim 12, wherein the instructions for retrieving  
2            and presenting comprise instructions for retrieving and presenting from a device  
3            other than the production device.

1            16.    The product of Claim 12, comprising further instructions for placing  
2            production data in a queue, the production data representing selected production  
3            options and the access instructions for the document, and wherein the  
4            instructions for returning comprise instructions for returning the production data  
5            from the queue.

1            17.    The product of Claim 16, further comprising instructions for  
2            providing an interface having user accessible controls for managing production  
3            data in the queue.

1            18.    The product of Claim 12, further comprising instructions for  
2            providing an interface having controls for displaying the status of the production  
3            device.

1            19.    The product of Claim 12, comprising further instructions for  
2            obtaining and verifying credentials and wherein the instructions for presenting  
3            comprise instructions for presenting the interface only upon verification of the  
4            credentials.

1           20.    The product of Claim 19, wherein the client is a web browser and  
2   the instructions for obtaining comprise instructions for obtaining the credentials  
3   using a cookie provided by the web browser.

1           21.    The product of Claim 12, wherein the instructions for retrieving  
2   comprises instructions for retrieving the interface in the form of a web page and  
3   the instructions for presenting comprises instructions for presenting the web  
4   page to a web browser.

1           22.    A computer program product for mediating access to production  
2   devices, the product comprising a computer useable medium having computer  
3   readable instructions thereon for:  
4           receiving a client's access request for a production device;  
5           obtaining credentials from the client;  
6           upon verification of the credentials, retrieving an interface from the  
7   production device, the interface having user accessible controls for selecting  
8   production options for a document;  
9           presenting the interface to the client;  
10          placing production data in a queue, the production data representing  
11   selected production options and access instructions for the document;  
12          providing an interface having user accessible controls for managing the  
13   production data in the queue; and  
14          returning production data from the queue to the production device.

1           23.    In a computer network, a system for managing electronic  
2   document production, the system comprising:  
3           one or more production devices;  
4           a client operable to identify a target document, issue an access request  
5   for a selected production device, and select production options;  
6           a mediation service in electronic communication with the client and the  
7   production device or devices, the mediation service operable to acquire the  
8   access request for the selected production device; retrieve an interface for the

9 selected production device, the interface having user accessible controls for  
10 selecting production options for the target document; present the interface to  
11 the client; and return selected production options with access instructions for  
12 the target document to the selected production device.

1 24. The system of Claim 23 wherein the interface is a web page and  
2 the client is a web browser.

1 25. The system of Claim 23, wherein the mediation service includes:  
2 an interface conduit operable to mediate communication between the  
3 client and the selected production device; and  
4 a production engine operable to manage the return of the selected  
5 production options and access instructions for the target document to the  
6 selected production device.

1 26. The system of Claim 23, wherein the mediation service includes a  
2 permission engine operable to limit the mediation service to returning the  
3 interface to a client presenting verified credentials.

1 27. The system of Claim 25, wherein the production engine includes:  
2 a queue operable to provide a holding bin for the returned production  
3 options and access instructions;  
4 a production manager operable to manage the queue; and  
5 an interface generator operable to provide the client with an interface  
6 having user accessible controls for directing the production manager.

1 28. The system of Claim 27, wherein the interface generator is a web  
2 server and the interface the web server provides is a web page having a network  
3 address accessible by a web browser.

1 29. In a computer network, a system for managing electronic  
2 document production, the system comprising:

- 3           one or more production devices;
- 4           a client operable to identify a target document, issue an access request
- 5   for a selected production device, and select production options;
- 6           an interface conduit operable to mediate communication between the
- 7   client and the selected production device;
- 8           a permission engine operable to limit the mediation service to returning
- 9   the interface to a client presenting verified credentials;
- 10          a queue operable to provide a holding bin for the returned production
- 11   options and access instructions;
- 12          a production manager operable to manage the queue; and
- 13          an interface generator operable to provide the client with an interface
- 14   having user accessible controls for directing the production manager.